

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims on the application. All claims are set forth below with one of the following annotations.

- (Original): Claim filed with the application.
- (Currently amended): Claim being amended in the current amendment paper.
- (Canceled): Claim cancelled or deleted from the application. No claim text is shown.
- (Withdrawn): Claim still in the application, but in a non-elected status.
- (New): Claim being added in the current amendment paper.
- (Previously presented): Claim added or amended in an earlier amendment paper.
- (Not entered): Claim presented in a previous amendment, but not entered or whose entry status unknown. No claim text is shown.

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently amended) A method of operating a wireless receiver to obtain for obtaining a soft decision value for a particular bit of a multibit phase shift key symbol, said method comprising:

receiving one or more signals in a wireless receiver as a result of a transmission of a signal in which the multibit phase shift key symbol is encoded;

forming a received estimate of said multibit phase shift key symbol from the received one or more signals;

obtaining a first angular difference between polar coordinates of said received estimate and polar coordinates of a nearest in angle ideal symbol having zero as a value for said particular bit;

obtaining a second angular difference between polar coordinates of said received estimate and polar coordinates of a nearest in angle ideal symbol having one as a value for said particular bit; and

forming a soft decision value for said particular bit based on said first angular difference and said second angular difference.

Claim 17 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said soft decision value is formed further based on an amplitude of said received estimate, said amplitude acting as a confidence value.

Claim 18 (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said phase shift key symbol comprises a detection symbol in a DPSK system.

Claim 19 (Currently amended) A method of operating a wireless receiver to obtain ~~for obtaining~~ a soft decision value for a particular bit of a multibit phase shift key symbol, said method comprising:

receiving one or more signals in the wireless receiver as a result of a transmission of a signal in which the multibit phase shift key symbol is encoded;

forming a received estimate of said multibit phase shift key symbol from the received one or more signals; and

forming a soft decision value for said particular bit based on angular differences between said received estimate and ideal values for said multibit phase shift key symbol.